

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Xavier University Cougars on winning the NAIA Football National Championship on Saturday.

It was another thrilling game, and a fitting way for Saint Xavier to bring home its first National Championship in any sport. From the freshmen to the seniors, from the top-ranked offense to the clutch defense to the special teams—everyone played a part in this victory and the Cougars' amazing season. This was the first time since 1913 that a Chicago college football team has won a national championship. And the Cougars did it with largely homegrown, Illinois talent.

Chicago, Lemont, Joliet, Tinley Park, Oak Lawn, Palos Heights, Park Ridge, Rockford, Frankfort—these and many other towns are well represented on this historic team.

The players, Coach Mike Feminis and his staff, Saint Xavier, Chicago, and Illinois should all be proud. Congratulations to the Cougars.

HELP DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced legislation intended to ensure that the Department of Defense meets its obligation to contract with small businesses owned and controlled by service-connected disabled veterans. (H.R. 3438).

As a nation, we owe an immense debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in our armed forces. In that spirit, we must do all we can to ensure that disabled veterans' businesses have every opportunity to succeed.

Federal agencies have a government-wide goal that three percent of all federal contracts should be filled by service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs). Unfortunately this contracting goal often goes unmet at many agencies.

The current state of affairs is unacceptable! It is unthinkable that an agency like the Department of Defense would not always fill its quota of hiring businesses owned and controlled by disabled veterans.

The solution to this problem is simple: H.R. 3438, will ensure that the Department of Defense meets its obligation to America's veterans by requiring the agency to award three percent of its contracts to SDVOSBs.

I invite my colleagues to join with me and help ensure that disabled veterans' businesses are not an afterthought in the government contracting process.

HONORING HUNTER JEFFREY FARIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Jeffrey Faris. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hunter has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, led his troop in various leadership positions, and attended the Philmont Scout Reservation High Adventure in 2008. Hunter has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hunter completed the construction of a 280 feet split rail wooden fence at Platte Ridge Park in Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter Jeffrey Faris for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2012 Conference report (H.R. 2055).

However, I regret the process that brought this bill to the floor. This bill was posted only hours before it was brought to the floor. No member has read this bill and this is one more time that the Majority has broken its promise to run this House in an open and transparent manner.

I am pleased that this bill included the full \$40 million that I secured earlier this year for suicide prevention and counseling programs for our active duty, Guard & Reserve, and veteran populations. The suicide epidemic among our veterans—at least 18 take their own lives

every day—is a national scandal, and it must stop. This funding will help innovative peer-to-peer counseling programs like the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's "Vets4Warriors" get the resources they need to reach veterans in need before a personal crisis becomes another family tragedy.

This bill honors our commitment to our ally, Israel, by providing \$3.075 billion in direct aid, including \$235 million for the continued development of the Arrow and David's Sling missile defense systems. Over this past year, we've already seen that America's investment in another innovative and successful Israeli tactical anti-missile system, Iron Dome, has saved Israeli lives. Had some Republican presidential candidates had their way last year and aid to Israel had been zeroed out, Iron Dome would not have been there to save those Israelis who came under missile attack this year.

I am very pleased to see that funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was increased by \$21 million over Fiscal Year 2011. Although the current level of \$322.8 million is far below the authorized amount of \$900 million this is still an improvement over earlier versions of this legislation.

Historic preservation is an important goal, and I am pleased that the National Park Service's Heritage Area program remains funded at the same level for 2012 as was last year. This funding is important for the upkeep and management of various sites of historical interest around the country, including the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in my district.

As a research scientist, I have long supported federal investment in basic research. I am pleased to see that this bill provides for Department of Energy Office of Science \$4.9 billion, an increase of \$31 million over Fiscal Year 2011. The Office of Science is the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences and has been integral to the development of dozens of innovative technologies. I am also pleased that H.R. 2055 provides \$275 million for the ARPA-E research program, 53 percent more than Fiscal Year 2011. ARPA-E supports high-risk, high-reward research on energy technologies. Funding for ARPA-E directly contributes to the creation of new technologies, new industries, and new jobs, exactly what we need to grow our economy. Further, the conference report provides more than \$400 million for Fusion Energy Sciences in the Department of Energy. Although I would have liked to see funding levels of at least \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am pleased that this bill provides almost \$31 billion in funding for NIH.

I am pleased that this conference report provides \$150 million for the Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships. I have been a leader in Congress working on protecting funding for these partnerships, which improve student achievement in mathematics and science by combining colleges with K-12 school districts in order to support math and science teachers with continued training.

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